

# THE LANCASTER NEWS

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\$1.50 A YEAR.

## CARRANZA PROMPTLY GRANTS OUR REQUEST

Grants Permission for United States to Use the Mexican Northwestern Railway.

### ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS

Removes Necessity for Maintaining Motor Truck Line Over 200 Miles of Desert.

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One of the army's most serious problems in hunting Villa was solved to-day when General Carranza promptly granted the renewed request of the state department for permission to use the Mexican Northwestern Railroad in carrying out the pursuit of the American troops of Francisco Villa.  
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Washington, March 29.—General Carranza received the new request this morning; his answer was in Washington before dark. It was contained in a brief message from John L. Rodgers, special agent of the United States at Queretaro, saying the head of the de facto government agreed to the commercial use of the line. Officials here assumed he would be equally prompt in notifying his officers on the border and that Gen. Funston might begin shipment to-morrow.

Although the army will proceed to use the railroad on a commercial basis, which is construed here as meaning that all service shall be paid for at regular rates, the state department will negotiate further with Carranza to bring about a more definite understanding. To-day's response is regarded as being satisfactory in a measure, but in order to assure the delivery of supplies along the line General Funston will desire to place guards on the trains.

War department officials were greatly relieved by the removal of the necessity of maintaining a motor truck supply line over desert roads for a distance of more than 200 miles. A cloudburst or great storm might render the roads impassable for a considerable time, cutting off the troops from their source of supplies at the border.

While the physical condition of the Mexican Northwestern is not good, many bridges having been destroyed during the years of revolution in Mexico, army engineers should have little difficulty in keeping it open.

Other details of the protocol suggested by General Carranza, state department official indicated, may not be completed until the expedition has accomplished its purpose and returned. It will serve, however, as the legal basis for the adjustment of all claims arising out of the use of American troops to pursue Villa.

In Mexico the agreement is understood to have another object. General Carranza is said to desire a definite and binding understanding with the United States which he can show to his people in support of his statement that no sovereign right of his country has been surrendered or violated.

There was no military news to-day from the border or from the expeditionary columns. General Pershing's reports to General Funston have been very brief and only important dispatches from the front have been forwarded to the war department. No officer here would hazard an opinion as to how long the chase might take.

Medical officers were inclined to discredit reports of extensive sickness among the troops at the front. The region in which they are operating is described as healthful and the men are thoroughly acclimated. General Funston has not asked for any extension of his base hospital facilities. Plans for additional wards for the hospital at Fort Bliss have been prepared for some time but the work has not been authorized.

A state department summary of dispatches to-day reported quiet in all districts heard from. There are 20 Americans in Durango and 10 more in the outlying districts of that region. "All are reported to be well," the statement said. There are 18 Americans in the Saltillo district where railway communication is open.

## LEVER'S MEASURE PASSED IN HOUSE

Calls For Additional Cotton Statistics.

### ROUNDS OUT CENSUS

Committee Reports That Bill Will Complete Data Needed for Proper Application of Principles.

Washington, March 29.—The Lever bill authorizing the census director to collect and publish monthly statistics of cotton seed and cotton seed products was passed by the house late to-day after an all day debate and now goes to the senate.

Chairman Helm of the census committee gave notice that he would call up next week the Heflin bill directing the bureau to collect and publish statistics of cotton consumed in the manufacture of explosives during 1915; quarterly thereafter.

In reporting the Lever bill, Representative Aswell, of Louisiana, said it was drafted after a conference with the census director and that it would afford an opportunity of making free application of the law of supply and demand.

"The census bureau now provides for collection of statistics from all the oil mills regarding the quantity of cotton seed crushed and linters obtained," he said. "This bill, however, provides for amplification of these statistics and makes mandatory the publishing of them at stated periods. The additional expense will be probably about \$10,000 with less annually after the first year."

The census committee report on the bill said:

"This bill rounds out and completes the statistics being collected by the bureau of the census concerning the cotton crop. It provides for the collection of data of the cotton plant which are of commercial value."

"There has been a great deal of speculation and manipulation of the prices of cotton seed and its products. The prices have been increased and decreased without regard to the actual production or to the quantities of seed and oil on hand. This law will enable the director of the census to give the proper information concerning the quantities of cotton seed purchased by the oil mills and the stocks on hand and it will furnish the oil man with information of this character and also with statistics concerning the quantities of crude and refined oil, meal and cake on hand, the quantities of oil purchased by the refineries and the stocks on hand at given dates.

"This information will lend greater stability to prices and enable all people engaged in the industry to obtain accurate statistics that will show at a glance the actual conditions of the market."

### YORK WANTS PRESS TO BE ITS GUESTS

White Rose City to Present Invitations to South Carolina Newspaper Men to Meet There.

York, March 28.—At an enthusiastic meeting of the citizens held in the White Rose club rooms to-night it was decided to present a strong invitation for the 1916 meeting of the South Carolina Press association. The invitation will be backed by the city council and the York Board of Trade. A committee of seven will be sent to Columbia next Friday to appear before the executive committee of the association when York's invitation will be extended.

In all directions and a big radio plant in operation.

"General Trevino returned to Torreon on March 26," the statement added, "and it is reported that he will institute an energetic campaign against the lawless element in the Laguna region."

Secretary Baker issued this statement at the war department tonight: "We have directed General Funston to tender for railroad shipment cargoes of supplies, either directly to our military men or to civilians in Mexico. This does not involve any tender of munitions for such railroad transportation nor does it involve the use of American military guards on any Mexican trains."

The order to General Funston was dispatched late to-day. Under it he will make such use of the railroads as the Mexican authorities permit pending the further negotiations with General Carranza being conducted by the state department.

## GERMAN HELD UP CAPTAIN AND CREW

Took Possession of British Ship Matoppo Shortly After Leaving New York.

### RIFLED THE VESSEL'S SAFE

Robbed Her Officers and Then Compelled the Vessel to Land Him at Delaware Breakwater.

Lewes, Del., March 30.—How a lone German stowaway held up the captain and 56 members of the crew of the British steamer Matoppo, compelling them at the point of a revolver to change the course of the vessel and land him at the Delaware Breakwater after he had rifled the ship's safe and taken their valuables was told here to-night by Captain Bergner, master of the Matoppo. The stowaway who says his name is Ernest Schiller and that he has lived in Hoboken, N. J., for the past eight months, is now locked up in the jail here awaiting the arrival of the United States district attorney from Wilmington, Del., and the British Consul General from Philadelphia.

The hold-up took place outside the three-mile limit and federal authorities say this government probably will have nothing to do with the matter. Schiller, they say, will be returned to the Matoppo and turned over to British officials at St. Lucia where the vessel will stop for coal.

The Matoppo sailed from New York yesterday for Vladivostok with a cargo consisting chiefly of barbed wire and farming implements. She passed out of Sandy Hook at 6 o'clock last night and two hours later, upon entering his cabin, Captain Bergner says he was confronted by a young man with a revolver in each hand. "Hands up and not a sound if you value your life," was the command. The captain was then bound hand and foot and locked in his cabin, promising under penalty of death, not to raise an alarm.

Cautiously making his way to the wireless cabin, the stowaway, who is about 26 years old, put the instruments out of commission and threw the ship's guns, consisting of six rifles, overboard. He then returned to the captain's cabin, rifled the safe and destroyed many important papers. He had expected, he told Captain Bergner, to find at least 2,000 pounds in English money aboard but there was not a penny in the safe. Later, however, Schiller compelled the captain and the first officer to hand over their pocketbooks containing a total of about 30 pounds.

With Captain Bergner still a prisoner in his own cabin, Schiller proceeded to round up the crew of 56 men, all but a few of whom were in their bunks. He lined all hands up in one end of the ship and threatened to blow everybody to pieces with bombs he said he had placed in different parts of the vessel if any one made a move.

At 4 o'clock this morning Schiller released Captain Bergner and still gripping a revolver in each hand, ordered the steamer headed towards shore. Other officers and members of the crew were ordered to their places and told to put on all speed for the Delaware Capes. When the Matoppo came within sight of land about noon Schiller ordered a small boat lowered to take him ashore. In the meantime assistance had been summoned and the ship's course had been changed. A tug-boat and the steam pilot-boat Philadelphia responded as did the coast guard crew stationed at Cape Hanlopen, Del. He was landed and locked up.

Since being placed in jail, the prisoner, who speaks excellent English, has refused to discuss his alleged exploits. He said, however, that he had been living for the past eight months at Hoboken and for a number of years had lived in England. He said he had been stowed away in the Matoppo five days before sailing. A partial investigation failed to reveal any of the bombs Schiller claimed to have concealed about the boat.

### 10,000 DOCK WORKERS STRIKE

London, March 29.—Ten thousand Mersey dock hands have struck, following an overtime dispute. The strike threatens to interfere seriously with trans-Atlantic shipping.

## RUSSIANS HAVE ENDED OFFENSIVE

Artillery Duels, However, Continue on Portions of the Eastern Front.

### BRITISH ARE KEPT BUSY

Germans Succeeded in Reaching Part of a Mine Crater Held by the British Near Et. Eloi.

Fighting is still going on between the British and Germans along the British end of the French line, particularly near Et. Eloi, where German grenade throwers have succeeded in reaching a portion of a mine crater held by the British. Near Boislinghe the British put down an attempted attack by the Germans.

Strong forces of Austrians and Italians are aligned against each other in the Garizla sector of the Austro-Italian front. On the heights of Seitz spirited fighting is taking place for the possession of trains. Elsewhere along the front the artillery duels continue.

Berlin says the big offensive of the Russians in the region of Postavy, has ceased and that the Russians also have given up their attacks around Lake Narocz. Artillery duels, however, are going on around Jacobstadt and to the north of Vidzy.

Great Britain has put in effect an order-in-council under which neither a vessel nor her cargo is immune from capture for a breach of the blockade on the sole ground that the vessel at the moment is on her way to a non-blockaded port.

### Italian Statement.

Rome, March 30, via London.—The war office communication issued to-day says:

"On the heights northwest of Gorizia, the artillery duel was intense throughout yesterday. At nightfall the enemy, having been reinforced, renewed its violent attack, which commenced at the northern extremity of the Podgora Height and extended rapidly along the whole as far as Sabotino. Repeatedly repulsed, the enemy constantly renewed its sanguinary attack with fresh troops. These efforts were vain and the enemy was eventually defeated by a counter-attack and forced to flee, leaving in our hands five officers and 156 men prisoners.

"On the Carso the artillery actions continue. East of Seize our troops, who for several days have pressed strong enemy entrenchments, about mid-day yesterday again attacked in strong force and seized an entrenchment at the point of the bayonet. The enemy launched numerous counter-attacks. The fighting continued into the night. In this brilliant action we captured seven officers, 200 men and two machine guns, one bomb-thrower and other booty."

### SPECIAL FEATURES OF MEETING

To Be Held Sunday April 2nd at Pleasant Plain Church.

Sermon to women—dinner on the ground—stereopticon pictures of Southern church work—A welcome to the public.

Program as follows:

10 o'clock, Sunday-school.  
11 o'clock, Sermon for women: subject: "The Queen of the South."  
Matt. 12:42, by pastor, T. A. Dabney.

Trio, Messrs. R. F. Long, W. V. Dabney, Herman Long.

Dinner on the grounds.

Afternoon Session.

Solo, Mrs. Jno. Truesdale.

Scripture recitation in unison.

Song.

Impersonation—Family of five migrated from South Carolina to Texas in a homeless church.

Solo, Miss Josephine Nelson.

Dialogue—A church in a saloon, by four boys.

Why we love Home Missions, by four Sunbeams.

Song.

Chart Lesson—Misses Willie Hinson, Nettie Adams, Era Hinson, Ethel Hilton and Rose Long.

History of negro Baptists—Mrs. Faulkenbury.

Quartette—Messrs. W. V. Dabney, J. T. Dabney, G. M. Dabney and C. C. Dabney.

Recitation, by four Sunbeams.

Stereopticon picture show of Southern Churches with lecture, by Rev. T. A. Dabney.

Offering.

## NO SUPPLIES SENT OVER THE RAILROAD

Officers Are Not Giving Out Any Information.

### WILD RUMORS RECEIVED

Villa Said to Be Made Miles South of Namiquipa and Fleeing in an Easterly Direction.

El Paso, Texas, March 30.—The problem of forwarding supplies to the American base at Colonia Dublan by way of the Mexican Northwestern railroad changed from the perplexing to the mysterious to-night. Gen. George Bell, Jr., apparently on receipt of instructions from Washington similar to those sent to General Funston, announced that he could give no information to the press regarding the situation and other officers and officials were equally uncommunicative.

The one definite fact is that no supplies have been sent as no train has left Juarez in the last two days. J. O. Crockett, vice president of the Northwestern railroad, said to-night that he knew of no arrangements for sending out a train or of supplies but that he had a train ready any time it was needed.

From the little learned here it appeared the question of gasoline supplies is causing military authorities the greatest anxiety. The motor-truck trains are taxed to their capacity and the amount of gasoline required by the trucks and the aeroplanes is great and constantly growing in volume.

The most reliable information about Villa places him somewhere in the fastness of the great continental divide, many miles south of Namiquipa and fleeing in an easterly direction with Parral as his objective. The absence for several days of any definite news has revived the wild rumors which flooded El Paso a week ago. The bandit chief has been reported in almost every conceivable place on the map and if all the stories current on the border are to be believed he has fought in the last few days more battles than Alexander the Great and has had more hairbreadth escapes than Jesse James.

One of the wierdest tales circulated among the newspapermen was promptly nailed by the police when they arrested Eduardo Perez, the father of the yarn, as a vagrant. Perez told a marvelous story of his adventures with Villa, who, he said, was desperately wounded in the raid on Columbus and was now in hiding on a ranch three miles from the border. He confessed the fabrication when it was proven he was at San Antonio during the very period he claimed to have been throwing dice with death in Mexico.

Lieutenant Joseph W. Allison, Jr., who died here yesterday from pneumonia contracted at the front, was given a military funeral preparatory to shipping his body to West Point where it will be buried. Joseph W. Allison, of Dallas, Texas, the father of the officer, was here, it being the second funeral of a son he had attended in the last six months.

### 30 KILLED IN TRAIN WRECK

More Than 40 Are Injured When Three Fast Trains Clash.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 29.—Thirty persons were killed and more than 40 injured early to-day when three fast passenger trains on the New York Central lines collided near Amherst, 37 miles west of Cleveland.

Dense fog obscured the signal set by the first section of an eastbound Pittsburgh-Baltimore-Buffalo limited, and a second section of that train crashed into it. A moment later the fast 20th Century Limited, west-bound on another track, crashed into the wreckage.

Daylight had not appeared when the three trains piled up. Farmers and villagers rushed to the assistance of the stricken passengers. The work of rescuing those pinned under the wreckage was hampered by darkness. Ambulances, automobiles and all kinds of vehicles were rushed from Elyria and other points to the scene of the wreck. The little morgue at Amherst soon was filled with bodies. Most of the injured were conveyed to Elyria.

The 20th Century proceeded on its way to Chicago. None of the passengers on this train were injured.

## THE BURNETT BILL PASSED THE HOUSE

Literacy Test and Asiatic Exclusion Provisions of Original Measure Unchanged.

### MAJORITY 308 TO 87

Favorable Action in the Senate Regarded as Assured—Has Been Voted Three Times.

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The Burnett immigration bill with its literacy test and Asiatic exclusion provision unchanged, passed the house late to-day by a vote of 308 to 87. It now goes to the senate, where favorable action is regarded as assured. The president has not indicated his purpose, however, to the house leaders.  
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Washington, March 30.—The literacy test, about which the fight against the bill has centered, was sustained, 284 to 107. This provision has been the cause of vetoes of similar immigration bills by Presidents Cleveland, Taft and Wilson. The house passed the bill over the Cleveland veto, but it failed in the senate. Motions to over-ride the vetoes of Presidents Taft and Wilson were lost in the house by narrow margins. Representative Burnett, chairman of the immigration committee, predicted to-night that there was sufficient strength to re-pass the bill in the event of another veto.

Both record votes on the literacy test and on the passage of the bill were without regard to party lines.

Majority Leader Kitchin voted for the literacy test and for the bill. Minority Leader Mann voted against the literacy test and then for the bill.

During the debate to-day the Humphrey reciprocal exclusion amendment, adopted Tuesday, aimed at retaliation upon British Columbia because of its exclusion of skilled and unskilled labor from this and other foreign countries, was modified upon discovery that it operated against immigration from Russia. It was changed so as to make it applicable only to a contiguous foreign country.

The literacy test as adopted would exclude all aliens over 16 years old, physically capable of reading, who cannot read English or some other language, except certain relatives of persons already in this country and certain classes of refugees from religious persecution.

Asiatic exclusion provisions specifically bar Hindus and add to the excluded classes "persons who cannot become eligible, under existing law, to become citizens of the United States by naturalization unless otherwise provided for" by existing or future treaties, conventions or agreements.

Pacific coast members were satisfied with this provision, which gives legislative recognition to the existing so-called "gentleman's agreement" with Japan for the exclusion of Japanese laborers, and the committee advised the house that there was nothing offensive in the language to the immigration bureau, the state department or to any government.

Other provisions of the bill extended and strengthened the laws regarding smuggling and harboring of inadmissible aliens, increased the penalties imposed on steamship companies for illegal acts in connection with immigrant traffic, require such companies to repay passage expense to rejected aliens, doubles the head tax from \$4 to \$8 and imposes restrictions designed to prevent alien seamen who leave their ships from remaining in this country.

### AUGUSTA FIRE SUFFERERS

Committee Says \$20,000 More Needed for Homeless.

Augusta, Ga., March 30.—The public welfare committee, which has undertaken the work of caring for the fire sufferers in the city, announced to-day that \$20,000 additional was needed to care for the homeless and needy of the city. The fund, it was said, to-day had reached approximately \$45,000.

The committee also voiced its opposition to the movement begun several days ago to bring laborers from other cities.